



KEEC Winter Board Meeting; January 23, 2013

Meeting Location: Berry Hill Mansion; Frankfort, KY

Meeting Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Eastern

Members in Attendance: Horace Brown, Greg Higdon, Cheryl Messenger, Marc Norton, Karen Reagor, Amelia Stenger, Lona Brewer

Absent Members: Shannon Graves, Karen Quinn

Meeting Introduction

The meeting was called to order by H. Brown.

Officer Elections

Upon Chair H. Brown's recommendation, officer elections were tabled until next meeting. Co-Chair Evelyn Morgan has resigned her Council membership.

Staff Changes

M. Roseman will be leaving KEEC on February 28. K. Reagor and M. Roseman offered to assist with the application and interview process for the new IPA II position. Z. Webb has joined staff as interim Information Officer. Z. Myers has joined staff as an Intern from January through mid-April.

Minutes

October 2012 minutes were presented to the board for review and approval.

⇒ A. Stenger moved that the minutes be approved; K. Reagor seconded the motion. The motion passed.

"Children at Play" Presentation

Claude Stephens, Education Director at Bernheim Arboretum & Research Forest, shared his professional and personal experiences, as well as numerous academic studies, demonstrating the educational benefits of "play" as it relates to environmental education. Mr. Stephens discussed Bernheim's Eco Kids initiative (newly funded by PNC bank), the Children & Nature Network, and the Children at Play 2013 Conference currently under development. He requested that KEEC distribute a survey requesting feedback and input regarding the planned conference. A. Stenger and C. Messenger favored supporting the project in a limited capacity and using our resources to assist where appropriate.

Mr. Stephens then briefly discussed the Edible Living Garden Project and the Living Building Challenge Project. He illustrated how these projects are more demanding than USGBC's LEED program, and discussed the differences between the terms "sustainable" and "regenerative."

Paris Schools Project

A short video was shown highlighting the successes of the Paris Outdoor Garden and Classroom, the result of a grant from the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky. E. Schmitz indicated the grant will help

institutionalize school garden and outdoor classroom policy in a district and serve as a model for other districts in the state.

Legislative Proposals

E. Schmitz reviewed a proposed amendment that would include KCTCS in KRS 157.915 (and thus make KCTCS eligible for Pride funding via environmental education centers). The proposed amendment was accepted by the Governor's Office and KEEC is now in the process of finding a legislative sponsor. G. Higdon had previously suggested new House Education Committee Chair Carl Rollins and E. Schmitz had previously suggested Derrick Graham. H. Brown recommended Speaker Greg Stumbo as another possible sponsor. G. Higdon and E. Schmitz agreed to meet with Rep. Rollins as soon as possible.

Travel Vouchers/Council Volunteer Hours

Z. Webb requested members update volunteer hour sheets which are used when applying for grants. Forms were completed and collected.

Break for Lunch

Board Absences

⇒G. Higdon moved that a subcommittee be formed to discuss board attendance, K. Reagor seconded, and the motion passed. Chair H. Brown directed Z. Webb to investigate attendance requirements of board.

Council Budget

E. Schmitz summarized current fiscal situation and probable insolvency in fiscal year 2015. G. Higdon summarized meeting between himself, E. Schmitz, H. Brown and Cabinet Secretary Len Peters. The meeting did not offer a promise of financial alleviation. L. Brewer suggested examining Supplemental Environmental Projects as a possible source of future funding. G. Higdon and H. Brown agreed to approach commissioner again and reiterate taxpayer savings generated by the Council's work as well as the Council's dire need for more funding. Additionally, A. Stenger suggested PNC Bank grants should also be examined as source of funding.

General Program Updates

KEEC meets with Governor Beshear: E. Schmitz recounted Governor Beshear's Cabinet Tour. E. Schmitz related that she gave a concise synopsis of KEEC and its programs, including number of schools and statewide reach and impact of programs, to the Governor and Cabinet Secretary Mary Lassiter. E. Schmitz also summarized the KEEC funding situation.

Capitol Education Center: Kiosks and exhibits of the new Capitol Education Center are up and running with minor problems. Board members were invited to the upcoming Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House on February 8th at 10am.

National Green Schools Conference: M. Roseman will present at the National Green Schools Conference in Florida on Feb 21 and 22; she will then write an article for the KGHS newsletter.

Kentucky Environmental Literacy Plan: The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) will be published soon. The second draft of the NGSS will be reviewed by E. Schmitz and are available for public comment. The final NGSS are scheduled to be released this spring, at which point the state can adopt

them and trigger implementation of the KERP. The KERP Implementation Advisory Team is meeting quarterly. Teacher Vivian Bowles will present a session about how to use environmental education as a vehicle for teaching English Language Arts at the Language Arts Teachers Council meeting. E. Schmitz has a grant pending to fund V. Bowles to make the same presentation to Administrator conventions during the summer.

Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools: M. Roseman discussed the Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools (KGHS) tracking database (KGHS 2.0) that allows for tracking KGHS school involvement, generating reports, and updating school progress through the program. The database includes school information, the years each school has participated, the current status of participating schools, and contact information for teacher liaisons during different years of participation. The database also opens up possibilities for in-depth program analysis and outreach. G. Higdon asked if the database can demonstrate monetary savings to the participating schools and districts. M. Roseman replied that such functions could be incorporated in future database revisions.

M. Roseman discussed the December KGHS advisory committee held at the Capitol Education Center, which was attended by First Lady Beshear. The 2013 KGHS summit will be held on May 8th from 9am-2pm at the Frankfort Convention Center. The advisory committee was concerned about the funding sustainability of the agency and the program. The advisory committee identified three goals of the summit: (1) recognition & school publicity, (2) raising awareness at the school level of the importance of environmental education, and (3) providing a platform for students to share their ideas. The next advisory meeting has been postponed. H. Brown noted that he donates an award to the KHLFCB, suggested that KEEC recognize a school at the KGHS summit, and offered to donate a similar award. K. Reagor also suggested the award could be presented at the Governor's Conference on Energy & the Environment (GCEE); G. Higdon suggested presenting the award at the Kentucky School Board Association (KSBA). M. Roseman suggested the award could also recognize a teacher. No final decision was reached about if the award would recognize a teacher or a school, or at which location the award would be made.

Certification: E. Schmitz proposed the Board approve members for the Non-Formal Certification Advisory Committee, which is made up of certification graduates from the formal and non-formal education sectors.

⇒ A. Stenger moved to accept, M. Norton seconded, and the motion passed.

Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education: E. Schmitz updated the Board on the Interagency Subcommittee on Environmental Education (ISEE), which met at the CEC. The committee viewed a Kentucky Department of Agriculture presentation by Elizabeth McNulty on a student-friendly guide to gardening titled "Ready, Set, Grow." Seth Wheat also presented to the group about Adventure Tourism's initiative, called "Trail Towns." The initiative is an economic development tool that focuses on connecting towns to land and water trails, such as the Shelton Trace. The goal is to help foster resources for hikers, bikers, and water enthusiasts in towns that connect to trails, bringing tourism dollars to local communities and increasing trail users' resource base for adventure tourism. For example, trail towns might support new biking or canoeing outfitters, groceries might stock more hiking friendly foods, etc.

KY Pride Fund/Regional EE Center RFP: E. Schmitz said the RFP is nearing its final stage of completion. KEEC's RFP development subcommittee has decided that the best course is to restrict the use of funds to meeting the objectives of Goals 9 and 10, and disallowing funding for projects and courses that have

been funded in the past. K. Reagor emphasized the goal that every aspiring teacher should have some exposure to environmental education, and that currently that goal is not being met. Therefore, the Council confirmed that the goal of the funding is to drive systemic change in the culture of the university colleges of education.

Social Media: Z. Webb briefly summarized KEEC's social media outreach efforts on Facebook and Twitter.

Meeting Adjourned